SATCHER NOMINATION/Cloture, motion to proceed

SUBJECT:

Nomination of David Satcher, of Tennessee, to be Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services, to be Medical Director in the Regular Corps of the Public Health Service, and to be Surgeon General of the Public Health Service. Lott motion to close debate on the motion to proceed.

ACTION: CLOTURE ON THE MOTION TO PROCEED AGREED TO, 75-23

SYNOPSIS: David Satcher was born March 2, 1941, in Anniston, Alabama. He received a B.S. degree from Morehouse College in 1963, and a M.D. and a PH.D. from Case Western Reserve University in 1970. His employment history includes the following: 1970-1971, Intern in Medicine/Pediatrics, Strong Memorial Hospital, Rochester, New York; 1970-1971, Medical Consultant, Sickle Cell Program, Rochester, New York; 1970-1972, Physician (part-time) at the Neighborhood Health Center, Rochester New York, and the Migrant Health Clinic, Rochester, New York; 1972-1974, Macy Faculty Fellowship; 1972-1975, Director, Community Hypertension Outreach Program, Los Angeles, California; 1973-1974, Associate Director, King-Drew Sickle Cell Center, Los Angeles, California; 1974-1979, Assistant Professor of Epidemiology, School of Public Health, UCLA School of Medicine, Los Angeles, California; 1975-1976, Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar and Senior Family Practice Resident, UCLA School of Medicine, Los Angeles, California; 1975-1979, Medical Director, Second Baptist Free Clinic, Los Angeles, California; 1976-1979, Professor and Chairman, Department of Family Medicine, Charles R. Drew Postgraduate Medical School, Martin Luther King, Jr. General Hospital, Los Angeles, California; 1979-1982, Professor and Chairman, Department of Community Medicine and Family Practice, School of Medicine, Morehouse College, Atlanta, Georgia; 1982-1993, President, Meharry Medical College, Nashville, Tennessee; and 1993-present, Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, Georgia.

On February 5, 1998, Senator Lott sent to the desk, for himself and others, a motion to close debate on the motion to proceed to the nomination.

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YEAS (75)				NAYS (23)		NOT VOTING (2)	
Republican (31 or 57%)		Democrats (44 or 100%)		Republicans (23 or 43%)	Democrats (0 or 0%)	Republicans (1)	Democrats (1)
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VOTE NO. 8 FEBRUARY 10, 1998

NOTE: A three-fifths majority (60) vote is required to close debate.

Those favoring the motion to invoke cloture contended:

Dr. Satcher is an eminently qualified doctor who is in the mainstream of medical opinion. We are very pleased that President Clinton has nominated him, and we urge our colleagues to join us in voting in favor of cloture.

While favoring the motion to invoke cloture, some Senators expressed the following reservations:

Dr. Satcher is a poor choice to serve as Surgeon General, and we intend to vote against his confirmation. However, we believe that the President should be given wide latitude in selecting the members of his Administration, and we know that a majority of Senators also support this nominee. Therefore, we will not support extended debate.

Those opposing the motion to invoke cloture contended:

Dr. Satcher is a supporter of partial-birth abortions. He has approved controversial AIDS studies, including studies that have withheld known effective treatments from African AIDS victims. He has championed federal funding for biased, flawed studies that define the Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms as a "disease," and he supports using taxpayer funds to buy hypodermic needles for drug addicts. President Clinton feels that Dr. Satcher is a very fine choice to serve as Surgeon General, America's family doctor. We think that President Clinton has a lot to learn about making ethical choices.